

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 6100

LIMDIS

PASS LABOR FOR SEGALL, HOROWITZ, LINSSENMEYER AND QUACKENBUSH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, ILO

SUBJ: ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL'S COMMENTS ON U.S. POLICY

REF: (A) STATE 187344; (B) STATE 186432; (C) GENEVA 5925

(D) WINDMULLER-PFEIFFER TELCON JULY 28

1. SUMMARY: IN HIS VERSION OF JULY 22 CONVERSATION WITH GOVERNOR SCRANTON, ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN OVERLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT U.S. DECISION TO REMAIN IN ILO BUT SAID HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY WESTERN SUPPORT FOR U.S. POLICY. HE URGES U.S. TO MAKE GREATER EFFORTS IN COMING YEAR, ESPECIALLY WITH THIRD WORLD. END SUMMARY

2. IN PRE-HOME LEAVE CALL ARRANGED SEVERAL DAYS AGO, LABATT CALLED ON BLANCHARD MORNING OF JULY 29. BLANCHARD ASKED FOR RUNDOWN OF CABINET-LEVEL COMMITTEE MEETING JULY21; LABATT REPLIED HE HAD NO REPORT YET BUT DREW ON SUBSTANCE OF PARAS 2, 3, AND 5 REF A AND ON REF B TO MAKE POINTS THAT EVENTS IN LAST TWO MONTHS WERE MIXED BAG AND DID NOT PERMIT U.S. TO REACH DECISION ON ILO MEMBERSHIP NOW: THAT WASHINGTON NOT OPTIMISTIC ABOUT REMAINING IN ILO AND THAT FINAL U.S. DECISION NOT LIKELY TO BE MADE UNTIL ALMOST END OF TWO-YEAR PERIOD OF NOTICE. LABATT THEN
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CONTRASTED THIS ASSESSMENT WITH BLANCHARD'S REPORTEDLY

OPTIMISTIC CONVERSATION WITH GOVERNOR SCRANTON (REF C).

3. BLANCHARD RECALLED REMARKS TO GOV. SCRANTON BY PLACING THEM IN SOCIAL CONTEXT OF FAREWELL LUNCH FOR AMBASSADOR DALE. HE SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN OVERLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE U.S. DECISION ON ILO MEMBERSHIP. HE TOLD GOV. SCRANTON HE HAD BEEN "ENCOURAGED" BY WESTERN SUPPORT FOR U.S. IN JUNE AND URGED U.S. NOT TO LET UP ON ITS EFFORTS BECAUSE THIS "WAS NOT THE TIME TO DEMOBILIZE". U.S. SHOULD NOW DEVOTE ATTENTION TO THIRD WORLD WHERE BLANCHARD BELIEVES A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES ARE POTENTIAL ALLIES (HE MENTIONED SENEGAL). BLANCHARD THEN CHIDED LABATT FOR BEING "TOO CYNICAL" IN DOUBTING MOTIVES OF WESTERN COUNTRIES (PARA 6 REF B). BLANCHARD SAID KISSINGER LETTER HAD CAUSED WESTERN COUNTRIES TO REEXAMINE THEIR COMMITMENT TO ILO. PART OF THEIR MOTIVATION FOR STANDING UP TO EASTERN EUROPEANS LAST MONTH HE ATTRIBUTED TO RECONSIDERATION OF POLICY OF DETENTE; BLANCHARD SAID "CHANGE IN ATMOSPHERE" OF EUROPEAN VIEW OF SOVIETS WAS HELPING U.S. EFFORTS IN ILO.

4. BLANCHARD IS EXCESSIVELY LOYAL TO ILO STAFF AND REACTS NEGATIVELY TO CRITICISM OF THEM. THEREFORE, UNTIL LEWIS/ ABRAMS LETTER (POUCHED JULY 26) WITH FULL BACKGROUND REACHES POST (REF D), LABATT DID NOT SEE ADVANTAGE IN RAISING POINTS IN PARA 4 REF A. BLANCHARD LEAVES THIS WEEKEND FOR THREE WEEK VACATION IN FRANCE AND WILL NOT BE BACK IN GENEVA UNTIL WEEK OF AUGUST 23 AT EARLIEST.

5. COMMENT: WE EXPECT BLANCHARD TO REACT TRUE TO FORM AND DISAGREE WITH CRITICISM OF ROLE OF ILO OFFICE DURING JUNE CONFERENCES. WE ASSUME THAT MOST FRUITFUL APPROACH TO BLANCHARD WILL BE TO STATE OUR ASSESSMENT OF STAFF ACTIONS WITHOUT DWELLING ON IT AND EMPHASIZE WHAT WE EXPECT FROM BLANCHARD AND ILO OFFICE IN THE FUTURE. ABRAMS

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